

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 H-01 NSAE-00 OCS-06
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P 191630Z JUN 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4297

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4624

E. O. 12065: GDS 6/18/87 (HINTON, DEANE R.) OR-M
TAGS: CASC PINS PINT ES
SUBJECT: SULLIVAN CASE

86
w/w R

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. IN COURSE OF LONG CONVERSATION JUNE 12, I RAISED SULLIVAN CASE WITH JUNTA PRESIDENT DUARTE. HE, GOES, AND EMBASSY HAVE DONE THEIR BEST, BUT HE THINKS, AS I DO, THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY SULLIVAN IS DEAD.
3. DUARTE'S JUNE 17 REPLY (IN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION) TO LETTER FROM CONGRESSWOMAN MARGE ROUKEMA FOLLOWS:
"DEAR MISS ROUKEMA:
"ON MAY 9 I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 21, WHEREIN YOU ASK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MR. JOHN J. SULLIVAN, WHO TRAVELED TO EL SALVADOR APPARENTLY TO WORK AS A JOURNALIST.
"I IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED THE COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE TO PREPARE A SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION; IT WAS NOT UNTIL JUNE 10 THAT I RECEIVED THE ATTACHED REPORT. (NOTE: EMBASSY DOES NOT YET HAVE A COPY OF REPORT WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS SENT WITH SPANISH ORIGINAL OF LETTER DIRECTLY TO MISS ROUKEMA)
"REGARDING YOUR ASSUMPTION THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. VIERA AND THE AMERICAN CITIZENS MICHAEL PETER HAMMER AND MARK DAVID PEARLMAN MIGHT BE SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. SULLIVAN, I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT I SENT A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO THE GENERAL ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SO THAT THE SPECIAL ATTORNEYS (APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS CASE) MAY TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE SAN SALVADOR COURTS, ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY.
"AT THE SAME TIME, WE CANNOT DISREGARD THE POSSIBILITY THAT MR. SULLIVAN'S ATTITUDE WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF MARYKNOLL FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS, SINCE BOTH SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS OF A POSSIBLE INSURRECTION ARE PROPITIOUS FOR THIS TYPE OF BEHAVIOR AND SINCE MR. SULLIVAN ARRIVED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE GUERRILLAS FINAL OFFENSIVE ON JANUARY 10, 1981.
"I HOPE THAT THIS REPLY WILL GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION REQUESTED, AND AT THE SAME TIME, THAT IT MAY SERVE AS AN ASSURANCE THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS MOST INTERESTED IN CLARIFYING NOT ONLY THIS CASE, BUT ALSO IN BECOMING AN INSTRUMENT OF JUSTICE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE SOCIAL PEACE TO WHICH WE SALVADORANS ASPIRE. "I APPRECIATE YOUR KIND LETTER AND WISH TO EXTEND THE ASSURANCES OF MY CONSIDERATION AND HIGH ESTEEM."
4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ADVISE MISS ROUKEMA AND MRS. SULLIVAN OF ABOVE.
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE MAR 1 5 1984
RDS ☐ or XD ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

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